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Upper Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.4

**E = Erika; A = Andy; J = Jane; R = Ralph**

**A:** Erika, what do you think about all these people who say that there’s no proof that climate change is man-made?

**E:** OK, I’ll tell you my position. I don’t know if climate change is man-made and I’m not sure anyone can say for sure. Let me give you an example … umm … an analogy. Imagine you were losing your hair and I told you that some people had found that if they ate a banana every day it prevented hair loss. Even though you had no proof it worked, you would probably try eating a banana each day, wouldn’t you? Well, it’s the same with global warming. We don’t know that we’re causing it, but some people say we might be with all the fossil fuels we burn. And I, for one, am happy to be a little more careful in how I pollute in case they’re right.

**A:** Mmm … well, I don’t accept that. I used to believe in climate change, but the last few winters here in the UK have been much colder than normal. To be honest with you, I’d believe it more if I wasn’t getting up in the morning and scraping ice off the inside of my windows rather than the outside.

**E:** Yeah, but that’s not the point, Andy, is it? You know, regional temperatures may be lower, but average global temperatures carry on rising.

**J:** Mmm … Look – there’s no doubt that the weather’s changing, but I don’t believe it’s a man-made problem. It’s just part of a natural weather cycle. Yeah, I know you’ll say ‘Oh, that’s just your excuse to drive a big car and fly to exotic places for your holidays’, but actually that’s not the reason. I don’t believe it simply because no scientist has successfully proved it yet.

**R:** We’re approaching this debate all wrong by saying ‘it’s a big environmental problem that we need to address’. Because it’s not just an environmental problem. It’s an economic problem, a social problem, even an ethical problem.